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LOUISIANA

JOB SERVICE

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

Gayle P. Truly, Secretary
MARCH, 1987

RELEASE DATE:
April 27, 1987

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY MARCH 1987				REVISED FEBRUARY 1987				REVISED MARCH 1986			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,936.1	1,675.3	260.8	13.5	1,948.7	1,667.8	280.9	14.4	1,987.4	1,744.0	243.4	12.2
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	60.7	54.0	6.7	11.0	60.8	53.6	7.2	11.8	59.8	53.7	6.1	10.3
Baton Rouge 2/	260.8	233.1	27.7	10.6	261.7	231.3	30.4	11.6	263.3	235.3	28.0	10.6
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	74.2	59.4	14.8	19.9	75.1	59.3	15.8	21.1	78.3	67.0	11.3	14.4
Lafayette 4/	101.2	86.2	15.0	14.8	101.9	85.7	16.2	15.9	110.8	98.6	12.2	11.0
Lake Charles 5/	72.1	62.2	9.9	13.7	72.9	62.1	10.8	14.8	76.4	65.7	10.7	14.0
Monroe 6/	69.1	61.5	7.6	11.1	69.2	61.0	8.2	11.8	69.7	62.7	7.0	10.1
New Orleans 7/	589.9	526.3	63.6	10.8	594.1	526.1	68.0	11.4	609.3	547.7	61.6	10.1
Shreveport 8/	164.7	143.4	21.3	12.9	165.4	143.0	22.4	13.6	169.4	149.5	19.9	11.7

Parishes included in above Labor Market Areas are listed at the end of the Employment and Payroll Trends narrative.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana during March totaled 1,485,200, a decrease of 300 from the February revised level of 1,485,500 and a decrease of 62,100 from the March 1986 figure. A decrease in the state's nonmanufacturing payrolls was responsible for the downturn in total nonagricultural employment. Manufacturing employment was higher for the current month.

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Estimated employment in the durable goods segment of nonmanufacturing was up by 400 from last month's level. Primary metal industries, fabricated metal products, machinery, except electrical, and transportation equipment each showed a gain of 100 over last month's employment level.

Nondurable goods employment, at 91,600 for March, was 300 lower than last month and 700 below the March 1986 figure. A decrease in the canning of seafood primarily accounted for the drop in the food and kindred products industry. Less activity in the paper mills segment of manufacturing was largely responsible for the downturn in paper and allied products payrolls.

Nonmanufacturing employment for March, at 1,322,200, was down by 400 from the February revised level and 58,400 below the year-ago figure. Mining employment was higher as a result of an upturn in the exploration for oil and gas. An increase in activity for general building contractors and in certain special trade segments accounted for the increase in construction employment. Transportation and public utilities employment was unchanged for this month. Decreases throughout retail trade accounted for the fall in total trade payrolls. Finance, insurance and real estate edged upward this month. Hotel and other lodging places, personal services, and business services were among the segments contributing to the growth in total services employment. Government employment in March was down due in large part to a decrease in local education payrolls.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 116,900 production workers in manufacturing increased from $454.26 in February to $455.94 in March, an increase of $1.68 and an increase of $11.42 above the comparable period a year ago. Average hourly earnings were four cents higher in March than last month and $0.17 more than March of last year. Weekly hours averaged 42.1 for both the current month and the previous month.

Estimated total unemployment in the state for March totaled 260,800, a decrease of 20,100 from the February level of 280,900. The unemployment rate for March was 13.5 percent compared to 14.4 percent last month and 12.2 percent in March of last year. The comparable national unemployment rate for March was 6.9 percent compared to 7.2 percent in February and 7.5 percent in March a year ago. Louisiana's civilian labor force went from 1,948,700 in February to 1,936,100 in March, a decrease of 12,600. Total employment for Louisiana, at 1,675,300, was 7,500 higher than last month.

Louisiana's unemployment rate may fall slightly in the next month or two. Better weather should result in increased employment for the construction industry. Manufacturing employment in Louisiana could edge up slightly in the upcoming months.

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes LaFourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Ouachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany , St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1987*	February 1987**	March 1986**	Net Change from February 1987	Net Change from March 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,485.2	1,485.5	1,547.3	- 0.3	-62.1
MINING	58.0	57.9	69.8	+ 0.1	-11.8
Oil and Gas Extraction	55.3	55.2	66.8	+ 0.1	-11.5
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.7	2.7	3.0	0	- 0.3
CONSTRUCTION	82.7	82.3	94.2	+ 0.4	-11.5
MANUFACTURING	163.0	162.9	166.7	+ 0.1	- 3.7
Durable Goods	71.4	71.0	74.4	+ 0.4	- 3.0
Lumber and Wood Products	11.8	11.8	12.3	0	- 0.5
Furniture and Fixtures	0.8	0.8	0.7	0	+ 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	5.8	5.8	6.3	0	- 0.5
Primary Metal Industries	3.1	3.0	2.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Fabricated Metal Products	11.9	11.8	13.3	+ 0.1	- 1.4
Machinery, Except Electrical	8.4	8.3	9.2	+ 0.1	- 0.8
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	7.5	7.5	7.8	0	- 0.3
Transportation Equipment	20.0	19.9	20.0	+ 0.1	0
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.1	2.1	2.0	0	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	91.6	91.9	92.3	- 0.3	- 0.7
Food & Kindred Products	20.0	20.2	19.8	- 0.2	+ 0.2
Apparel & Other Textile Products	8.0	7.9	7.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Paper & Allied Products	11.7	11.9	11.9	- 0.2	- 0.2
Printing & Publishing	9.7	9.7	10.0	0	- 0.3
Chemicals & Allied Products	25.0	25.0	26.6	0	- 1.6
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.6	12.6	12.2	0	+ 0.4
Petroleum Refining	11.7	11.7	11.3	0	+ 0.4
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	4.6	4.6	4.0	0	+ 0.6
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	105.2	105.2	111.6	0	- 6.4
Railroad Transportation	5.4	5.4	5.8	0	- 0.4
Transportation, ex. Railroads	58.6	58.6	64.5	0	- 5.9
Water Transportation	23.2	23.1	27.7	+ 0.1	- 4.5
Communication & Electric, Gas & Sanitary Ser.	41.2	41.2	41.3	0	- 0.1
Communication, Exc. U S Postal Service	18.5	18.5	19.5	0	- 1.0
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	22.7	22.7	21.8	0	+ 0.9
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	354.8	356.9	373.4	- 2.1	-18.6
Wholesale Trade	80.2	80.1	87.6	+ 0.1	- 7.4
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	44.1	44.3	50.8	- 0.2	- 6.7
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	36.1	35.8	36.8	+ 0.3	- 0.7
Retail Trade	274.6	276.8	285.8	- 2.2	-11.2
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	56.1	56.6	58.7	- 0.5	- 2.6
Food Stores	56.6	57.3	54.2	- 0.7	+ 2.4
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	29.0	29.2	31.5	- 0.2	- 2.5
Eating & Drinking Places	81.3	81.9	87.4	- 0.6	- 6.1
Other Retail Trade	51.6	51.8	54.0	- 0.2	- 2.4

LOUISIANA - CONTINUED
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1987*	February 1987**	March 1986**	Net Change from February 1987	Net Change from March 1986
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	85.2	85.1	85.6	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Banking	25.9	26.0	27.1	- 0.1	- 1.2
SERVICES	316.4	314.8	320.7	+ 1.6	- 4.3
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	23.5	22.9	23.0	+ 0.6	+ 0.5
Personal Services	14.8	14.6	15.5	+ 0.2	- 0.7
Business Services	54.1	53.9	57.9	+ 0.2	- 3.8
Auto Repair, Services & Garages	9.4	9.6	9.9	- 0.2	- 0.5
Miscellaneous Repair Services	6.7	6.7	6.9	0	- 0.2
Amusement & Recreation Services	8.4	8.5	8.6	- 0.1	- 0.2
Health Services	96.8	96.7	94.3	+ 0.1	+ 2.5
Legal Services	14.7	14.6	14.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
Educational Services	21.8	21.7	23.1	+ 0.1	- 1.3
Social Services	18.8	18.7	18.8	+ 0.1	0
Membership Organizations	25.4	25.3	25.8	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Miscellaneous Services	16.1	16.1	17.0	0	- 0.9
GOVERNMENT	319.9	320.4	325.3	- 0.5	- 5.4
Federal	36.3	36.2	35.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
State and Local	283.6	284.2	289.6	- 0.6	- 6.0
State	101.2	101.4	103.5	- 0.2	- 2.3
Local	182.4	182.8	186.1	- 0.4	- 3.7

* Preliminary **Revised
(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries
(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication are prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '87*	February '87**	March '86**	March '87*	February '87**	March '86**	March '87*	February '87**	March '86**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$455.94	$454.26	$444.52	42.1	42.1	41.7	$10.83	$10.79	$10.66
Durable Goods	400.57	402.68	401.29	41.0	41.3	41.2	9.77	9.75	9.74
Lumber & Wood Products	347.76	347.76	334.74	43.2	43.2	42.0	8.05	8.05	7.97
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	373.28	361.23	368.78	39.5	38.8	39.4	9.45	9.31	9.36
Fabricated Metal Products	423.80	425.57	415.95	44.1	44.1	42.1	9.61	9.65	9.88
Machinery, ex. Electrical	408.90	399.90	394.01	43.5	43.0	41.0	9.40	9.30	9.61
Electric & Electronic Equip.	466.12	490.73	488.36	37.2	39.8	42.1	12.53	12.33	11.60
Transportation Equipment	416.19	421.50	455.92	38.5	39.1	41.0	10.81	10.78	11.12
Nondurable Goods	505.13	499.05	483.73	43.1	42.8	42.1	11.72	11.66	11.49
Food & Kindred Products	312.00	309.66	308.50	39.0	39.0	39.4	8.00	7.94	7.83
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	210.40	208.29	193.86	39.4	39.3	35.9	5.34	5.30	5.40
Paper & Allied Products	556.71	559.85	585.64	42.4	42.9	44.4	13.13	13.05	13.19
Printing & Publishing	405.20	382.76	398.09	40.0	38.2	38.8	10.13	10.02	10.26
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	708.39	696.76	653.26	46.3	45.9	44.5	15.30	15.18	14.68
Petroleum & Coal Products	726.19	709.48	671.60	49.1	48.1	46.0	14.79	14.75	14.60
Petroleum Refining	739.04	730.54	686.09	49.5	48.8	46.8	14.93	14.97	14.66
MINING	584.42	589.00	522.76	48.1	48.2	45.3	12.15	12.22	11.54
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	514.00	505.53	521.37	40.0	39.9	40.7	12.85	12.67	12.81
BANKING	255.19	257.52	269.18	39.2	38.9	40.6	6.51	6.62	6.63

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 116,900 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 90,700 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

	PRELIMINARY 03 87				REVISED 02 87			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	23,725	19,300	4,425	18.6	23,850	19,300	4,550	19.1
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	9,225	7,775	1,450	15.8	9,175	7,600	1,575	17.1
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	7,675	5,325	2,350	30.7	8,200	5,400	2,800	34.1
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	16,650	13,050	3,600	21.6	16,725	12,950	3,775	22.5
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	13,575	11,800	1,775	13.0	13,625	11,700	1,925	14.1
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	6,650	5,675	975	14.8	6,675	5,625	1,050	15.6
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	4,525	3,700	825	18.4	4,525	3,625	900	20.0
CAMERON (CAMERON)	4,350	3,750	600	13.9	4,375	3,750	625	14.2
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	4,950	3,675	1,275	25.8	4,900	3,575	1,325	27.0
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	7,525	6,600	925	12.4	7,500	6,500	1,000	13.3
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	10,375	8,275	2,100	20.3	10,275	8,025	2,250	21.8
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	13,100	11,075	2,025	15.4	13,200	11,050	2,150	16.3
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	4,400	3,275	1,125	25.7	4,300	3,125	1,175	27.3
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	8,625	7,550	1,075	12.4	8,625	7,450	1,175	13.6
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	13,725	11,225	2,500	18.3	13,825	11,125	2,700	19.5
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	8,600	6,700	1,900	22.1	8,625	6,625	2,000	23.3
COLFAX (GRANT)	6,650	5,550	1,100	16.5	6,700	5,525	1,175	17.6
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	28,800	22,550	6,250	21.7	29,450	22,650	6,800	23.1
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	12,200	10,025	2,175	17.8	12,350	9,975	2,375	19.2
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	7,125	6,400	725	10.2	7,125	6,375	750	10.5
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	12,950	10,750	2,200	17.1	13,175	10,550	2,625	20.0
JENA (LASALLE)	6,650	5,650	1,000	15.1	6,675	5,600	1,075	16.1
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	17,875	16,750	1,125	6.3	17,875	16,650	1,225	6.8
TALLULAH (MADISON)	5,925	4,825	1,100	18.7	6,000	4,750	1,250	20.9
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	12,375	10,175	2,200	17.8	12,325	9,950	2,375	19.3
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	17,400	15,200	2,200	12.6	17,500	15,075	2,425	13.9
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUM.)	9,575	8,150	1,425	14.8	9,425	8,050	1,375	14.5
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	7,975	6,400	1,575	19.9	8,300	6,350	1,950	23.4
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	4,300	3,725	575	13.4	4,325	3,700	625	14.6
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	8,750	7,100	1,650	19.0	8,700	6,925	1,775	20.3
MANY (SABINE)	9,975	8,700	1,275	12.8	10,025	8,625	1,400	14.0
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	2,975	2,475	500	16.8	3,050	2,500	550	18.3
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	8,575	7,000	1,575	18.4	8,575	6,950	1,625	19.0
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	35,025	27,800	7,225	20.6	35,400	27,775	7,625	21.5
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	27,125	20,200	6,925	25.5	27,875	20,250	7,625	27.3
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	39,300	33,475	5,825	14.8	39,300	33,075	6,225	15.8
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	3,500	2,925	575	16.6	3,525	2,850	675	18.9
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	8,325	7,025	1,300	15.5	8,300	6,950	1,350	16.3
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	21,200	16,550	4,650	22.0	21,450	16,400	5,050	23.5
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	18,500	16,750	1,750	9.5	18,600	16,725	1,875	10.1
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	18,400	15,875	2,525	13.8	18,400	15,725	2,675	14.6
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	19,200	16,100	3,100	16.2	19,475	16,100	3,375	17.3
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	5,225	3,700	1,525	29.4	5,400	3,650	1,750	32.4
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	4,150	3,650	500	12.3	4,225	3,650	575	13.8
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,700	4,975	725	12.9	5,675	4,925	750	-13.3

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESIS.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25 EXCEPT LMAS AND STATEWIDE WHICH ARE ROUNDED TO NEAREST 100. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1987*	February 1987**	March 1986**	Net Change From February 1987	Net Change From March 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	45.6	45.5	44.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
MANUFACTURING	3.5	3.5	3.2	0	+ 0.3
Durable Goods	2.3	2.3	2.0	0	+ 0.3
Lumber & Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.4	0	+ 0.1
Other Durable Goods	1.8	1.8	1.6	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
MINING	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.5	2.5	2.7	0	- 0.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	10.7	10.7	10.2	0	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
Retail Trade	8.6	8.6	8.1	0	+ 0.5
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	1.9	1.9	1.7	0	+ 0.2
Auto Dlrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.0	1.0	0.9	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
Other Retail Trade	3.5	3.5	3.4	0	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	2.6	2.6	2.6	0	0
SERVICES	11.1	11.1	10.6	0	+ 0.5
Health Services	4.5	4.5	4.3	0	+ 0.2
GOVERNMENT	12.7	12.6	13.0	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Federal	2.7	2.6	2.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
State and Local	10.0	10.0	10.4	0	- 0.4
State	4.8	4.8	5.2	0	- 0.4
Local	5.2	5.2	5.2	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria labor market area was estimated at 45,600 during March. This estimate was 100 more than February and 800 more than March of last year.

Estimated employment in manufacturing during March totaled 3,500. This is unchanged since last month and 300 more than March of last year. The increase since last year was in lumber and wood products and in other durable goods.

Employment in nonmanufacturing was estimated at 42,100 during March. This was 100 more than February and 500 more than last March. Since last month, the only change was an increase in federal government. Compared to March of last year, gains were in retail trade and services; reductions were in construction and state government.

During the next thirty days the number of unemployed should decline slightly, with the number of employed showing a slight increase.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1987*	February 1987**	March 1986**	Net Change From February 1987	Net Change From March 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	213.3	212.1	214.9	+ 1.2	- 1.6
MANUFACTURING	18.7	18.5	19.1	+ 0.2	- 0.4
Durable Goods	4.1	3.9	4.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Fabricated Metal Products	0.8	0.7	0.9	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Other Durable Goods	2.0	1.9	1.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	14.6	14.6	15.1	0	- 0.5
Food & Kindred Products	1.9	1.9	1.9	0	0
Printing & Publishing	1.4	1.4	1.5	0	- 0.1
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	10.2	10.2	10.9	0	- 0.7
Other Nondurable Goods	1.1	1.1	0.8	0	+ 0.3
MINING	1.0	1.0	1.1	0	- 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	20.3	19.8	20.7	+ 0.5	- 0.4
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILTIES	10.5	10.5	10.5	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	52.1	51.9	52.1	+ 0.2	0
Wholesale Trade	11.2	11.1	11.4	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	7.4	7.4	8.0	0	- 0.6
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	3.8	3.7	3.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Retail Trade	40.9	40.8	40.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	13.4	13.4	13.7	0	- 0.3
Banking	4.0	4.0	4.4	0	- 0.4
SERVICES	41.7	41.3	41.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	55.6	55.7	56.1	- 0.1	- 0.5
Federal	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
State and Local	53.4	53.5	53.9	- 0.1	- 0.5
State	32.1	32.2	32.1	- 0.1	0
Local	21.3	21.3	21.8	0	- 0.5

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '87*	February '87**	March '86**	March '87*	February '87**	March '86**	March '87*	February '87**	March '86**
1 MANUFACTURING (1)	$512.95	$497.32	$528.20	41.4	40.4	42.7	$12.39	$12.31	$12.37
Petro-Chemicals	692.56	663.78	703.17	46.7	46.0	47.9	14.83	14.43	14.68

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,100 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA at 213,300 during March was up 1,200 from the revised February estimate. Manufacturing was up 200 and nonmanufacturing was up 1,000.

Employment in manufacturing, at 18,700 in March, was up during the current period. Durable goods was up due to more business in metal cans and shipping containers, in fabricated structural metal products, in blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling and finishing mills, in general industrial machinery and equipment, and in miscellaneous machinery, except electrical. Nondurable goods showed no change.

Nonmanufacturing employment was up during the current period. Mining showed no change. Construction was up due to more business in general building contractors-nonresidential buildings, and in heavy construction, except highway and street construction. Transportation and public utilities showed no change. Wholesale trade was up due to more business in groceries and related products, in petroleum and petroleum products, and in beer, wine and distilled alcoholic beverages. Retail trade was up due to seasonal increases in motor vehicle dealers (new and used) and in gasoline service stations. Finance, insurance and real estate showed no change. Services rose due to seasonal increases in miscellaneous business services, in hospitals, in medical and dental laboratories, in job training and vocational rehabilitation services, and in museums and art galleries. Federal government was unchanged from last month. State government was down due to staff reductions. Local government showed no change.

Average weekly earnings of the Baton Rouge LMA's 12,100 production workers in manufacturing was $512.95, up $15.63 from the revised February average. Average weekly hours were up 1.0 hour and average hourly earnings were up eight cents during the current period. More overtime worked at premium pay contributed to these changes.

Total employment of Baton Rouge LMA's residents was estimated at 233,100 during March, up 1,800 from February's revised total. Unemployment, at 27,700 during March, was down 2,700 during the current period. The March unemployment rate, at 10.6 percent, was down from last month's revised 11.6 percent. The statewide unemployment rate for March was 13.5 percent, and the national rate was 6.9 percent. The Baton Rouge LMA civilian labor force totaled 260,800 during the current period.

Seasonal increases should continue improving employment during the coming months.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office served 2,130 individuals with new or renewal applications, and placed 219 applicants in jobs during March.

The consumer price index for February, 1987 for all urban consumers was 334.4 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 329.0 using base period 1967=100.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1987*	February 1987**	March 1986**	Net Change From February 1987	Net Change From March 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	51.5	51.4	58.1	+ 0.1	- 6.6
MANUFACTURING	4.2	4.3	4.6	- 0.1	- 0.4
Durable Goods	2.9	2.9	3.4	0	- 0.5
Nondurable Goods	1.3	1.4	1.2	- 0.1	+ 0.1
MINING	5.8	5.8	7.4	0	- 1.6
CONSTRUCTION	1.4	1.4	1.9	0	- 0.5
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	5.7	5.7	7.0	0	- 1.3
Water Transportation	3.5	3.5	4.3	0	- 0.8
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	13.3	13.0	14.5	+ 0.3	- 1.2
Wholesale Trade	2.6	2.6	3.2	0	- 0.6
Retail Trade	10.7	10.4	11.3	+ 0.3	- 0.6
Eating & Drinking Places	3.4	3.2	3.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.4	2.4	2.7	0	- 0.3
SERVICES	8.1	8.1	8.8	0	- 0.7
GOVERNMENT	10.6	10.7	11.2	- 0.1	- 0.6
Federal	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
State and Local	10.1	10.2	10.7	- 0.1	- 0.6
State	3.1	3.2	3.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Local	7.0	7.0	7.7	0	- 0.7

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Houma-Thibodaux LMA in March edged up to 51,500, showing a small overall increase of 100 since February. Since March of 198[illegible], total employment lost 6,600 workers, exhibiting a reduction of 11.4 percent. Total nonagricultural employment now stands at the lowest level since February of 1977.

Manufacturing employment totaled 4,200 in March, down 100 over the previous month. Durable goods were unchanged over the previous month. The decrease of 100 in total manufacturing was due to small decreases occurring in many nondurable goods industries. Compared to one year ago, manufacturing is down 400.

Retail trade showed a gain mostly in employment by eating and drinking places and food stores. Less favorably, employment in state government fell due to decreases in state education. Services displayed no significant change. Mining held steady. Construction continued to stand on a total level lower than any from 1975 through 1986. Transportation and public utilities remained at the level of the previous month. Finance, insurance and real estate showed no important change in any segment.

Estimated unemployment in March moved down to 14,800, a level 1,000 below February. A decrease in the size of the labor force was mainly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 19.9 percent of the labor force compared to 21.1 percent in February and 14.4 percent in March of

last year. The March rate was higher than the state rate of 13.5 percent and much higher than the comparable national rate of 6.9 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits totaled 4,040.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is predicted to show a small seasonal gain. Much will depend on developments in the oil and gas industry. Construction and mining will benefit from better weather conditions. Unemployment will probably move up with the early summer increase in the number of entrants and re-entrants into the labor force.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1987*	February 1987**	March 1986**	Net Change From February 1987	Net Change From March 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	82.5	82.4	94.3	+ 0.1	-11.8
MANUFACTURING	5.7	5.7	6.2	0	- 0.5
Durable Goods	1.3	1.3	2.0	0	- 0.7
Nondurable Goods	4.4	4.4	4.2	0	+ 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	1.7	1.7	1.5	0	+ 0.2
MINING	11.2	11.1	13.9	+ 0.1	- 2.7
CONSTRUCTION	3.0	3.0	4.1	0	- 1.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	6.4	6.5	7.2	- 0.1	- 0.8
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	21.7	21.7	24.8	0	- 3.1
Wholesale Trade	4.8	4.8	5.9	0	- 1.1
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	2.9	2.9	3.9	0	- 1.0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	1.9	1.9	2.0	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	16.9	16.9	18.9	0	- 2.0
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.9	2.9	3.1	0	- 0.2
Food Stores	2.8	2.8	3.2	0	- 0.4
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.5	1.5	1.8	0	- 0.3
Other Retail Trade	9.7	9.7	10.8	0	- 1.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.0	4.0	4.2	0	- 0.2
Banking	1.4	1.4	1.6	0	- 0.2
SERVICES	17.5	17.4	20.4	+ 0.1	- 2.9
GOVERNMENT	13.0	13.0	13.5	0	- 0.5
Federal	0.8	0.8	1.0	0	- 0.2
State and Local	12.2	12.2	12.5	0	- 0.3
State	5.2	5.2	5.1	0	+ 0.1
Local	7.0	7.0	7.4	0	- 0.4

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lafayette area during March 1987 stood at 82,500, an increase of 100 from the previous month, but reflected a decrease of 11,800 from the same period last year.

Manufacturing showed no change from February 1987, however, a decrease of 500 from March 1986 was noted.

Wholesale and retail trade was unchanged from last month. A reduction of 3,100 from March of last year occurred.

Services employment showed an increase of 100 from the previous month, but fell by 2,900 from last year's March estimate.

Total employment may show a slight increase during the next month, but the number of unemployed will probably show no change.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1987*	February 1987**	March 1986**	Net Change From February 1987	Net Change From March 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	55.7	55.9	58.5	- 0.2	- 2.8
MANUFACTURING	8.7	8.7	8.8	0	- 0.1
Durable Goods	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Nondurable Goods	8.1	8.1	8.2	0	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0
Chemical & Pet. Products	7.3	7.3	7.4	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
MINING	1.3	1.3	1.6	0	- 0.3
CONSTRUCTION	4.7	4.7	5.8	0	- 1.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	3.6	3.7	3.9	- 0.1	- 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	13.5	13.6	14.3	- 0.1	- 0.8
Wholesale Trade	2.8	2.9	2.9	- 0.1	- 0.1
Retail Trade	10.7	10.7	11.4	0	- 0.7
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.1	1.1	1.2	0	- 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	2.9	2.9	3.5	0	- 0.6
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.7	2.7	2.6	0	+ 0.1
Banking	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
SERVICES	10.7	10.7	10.9	0	- 0.2
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
GOVERNMENT	10.5	10.5	10.6	0	- 0.1
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	9.9	9.9	10.0	0	- 0.1
State	3.6	3.6	3.5	0	+ 0.1
Local	6.3	6.3	6.5	0	- 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lake Charles area was estimated at 55,700 for the month of March 1987, a decrease of 200 from the previous month and 2,800 below March 1986.

Construction showed no change from the previous month, but there was a substantial decrease of 1,100 from March of last year.

Wholesale and retail trade showed an overall decrease of 100 from last month, and fell by 800 from March 1986.

Finance, insurance, and real estate showed no change from last month, but there was an increase of 100 from March of last year.

The unemployment rate will likely remain high due to the continuing slowdown in mining. Employment levels will probably show little change for next month.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1987*	February 1987**	March 1986**	Net Change From February 1987	Net Change From March 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	54.2	54.6	55.5	- 0.4	- 1.3
MANUFACTURING	7.2	7.2	7.3	0	- 0.1
Durable Goods	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0
Nondurable Goods	4.9	4.9	5.0	0	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Chemical & Allied Products	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	3.5	3.5	3.6	0	- 0.1
MINING	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	2.8	3.0	3.4	- 0.2	- 0.6
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.6	2.6	2.9	0	- 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.6	14.7	15.0	- 0.1	- 0.4
Wholesale Trade	3.7	3.8	3.8	- 0.1	- 0.1
Retail Trade	10.9	10.9	11.2	0	- 0.3
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.7	2.8	3.4	- 0.1	- 0.7
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.3	1.3	1.1	0	+ 0.2
Eating & Drinking Places	3.3	3.2	3.3	+ 0.1	0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.5	4.4	4.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Banking	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
SERVICES	11.2	11.3	11.1	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Health Services	4.6	4.6	4.3	0	+ 0.3
GOVERNMENT	10.7	10.8	10.9	- 0.1	- 0.2
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	10.1	10.2	10.3	- 0.1	- 0.2
State	4.7	4.8	4.6	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Local	5.4	5.4	5.7	0	- 0.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Monroe area was estimated at 54,200, 400 below the February estimate.

Manufacturing was unchanged over the month.

Construction, estimated at 2,800, experienced the largest loss, 200. Government, services, and wholesale and retail trade each declined by 100. The only gain, 100, was in finance, insurance and real estate. All other segments were unchanged.

The Easter Holiday should boost wholesale and retail trade over the next 30 days. Construction is dependent on weather conditions, but should begin to inch upward. Unemployment is expected to remain high until the present economic conditions improve.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1987*	February 1987**	March 1986**	Net Change From February 1987	Net Change From March 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	509.8	511.1	527.0	- 1.3	-17.2
MANUFACTURING	42.6	42.7	43.6	- 0.1	- 1.0
Durable Goods	20.6	20.7	21.7	- 0.1	- 1.1
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.4	1.4	1.6	0	- 0.2
Fabricated Metal Products	2.4	2.4	2.8	0	- 0.4
Machinery	2.5	2.5	2.7	0	- 0.2
Transportation Equipment	12.1	12.2	12.4	- 0.1	- 0.3
Ship and Boatbuilding & Repairing	7.8	7.9	7.8	- 0.1	0
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	0
Nondurable Goods	22.0	22.0	21.9	0	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	6.6	6.6	6.5	0	+ 0.1
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	+ 0.1
Paper & Allied Products	1.0	1.0	1.1	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	3.6	3.6	3.5	0	+ 0.1
Chemicals and Allied Products	3.8	3.8	4.2	0	- 0.4
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.8	4.8	4.5	0	+ 0.3
Other Nondurable Goods	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
MINING	16.6	16.6	17.9	0	- 1.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	15.7	15.7	17.0	0	- 1.3
CONSTRUCTION	22.9	23.3	26.6	- 0.4	- 3.7
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	41.8	42.4	44.7	- 0.6	- 2.9
Railroad Transportation	1.8	1.8	1.9	0	- 0.1
Water Transportation	11.2	11.6	13.3	- 0.4	- 2.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	132.6	134.0	138.4	- 1.4	- 5.8
Wholesale Trade	31.6	31.8	34.0	- 0.2	- 2.4
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	18.5	18.7	20.2	- 0.2	- 1.7
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	13.1	13.1	13.8	0	- 0.7
Retail Trade	101.0	102.2	104.4	- 1.2	- 3.4
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	34.0	34.1	33.4	- 0.1	+ 0.6
Banking	7.3	7.4	7.3	- 0.1	0
SERVICES	134.4	133.2	133.8	+ 1.2	+ 0.6
GOVERNMENT	84.9	84.8	88.6	+ 0.1	- 3.7
Federal	15.7	15.8	15.3	- 0.1	+ 0.4
State and Local	69.2	69.0	73.3	+ 0.2	- 4.1
State	19.5	19.6	20.6	- 0.1	- 1.1
Local	49.7	49.4	52.7	+ 0.3	- 3.0

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '87*	February '87**	March '86**	March '87*	February '87**	March '86**	March '87*	February '87**	March '86**
All MANUFACTURING	$437.54	$441.98	$427.87	41.2	41.5	40.1	$10.62	$10.65	$10.67
Durable Goods	390.85	386.90	395.41	39.6	39.2	39.7	9.87	9.87	9.96
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	328.00	318.99	348.41	32.0	31.0	32.9	10.25	10.29	10.59
Fabricated Metal Products	468.17	444.53	424.28	47.1	43.2	42.9	9.94	10.29	9.89
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	369.95	379.66	390.45	38.1	38.9	39.4	9.71	9.76	9.91
Nondurable Goods	481.23	494.68	462.03	42.7	43.7	40.6	11.27	11.32	11.38
Food & Kindred Products	347.60	353.33	333.21	39.5	40.8	38.3	8.80	8.66	8.70
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	184.26	201.29	161.40	34.7	36.4	26.9	5.31	5.53	6.00
Paper & Allied Products	408.71	400.43	458.72	43.9	44.2	48.8	9.31	9.06	9.40
Printing & Publishing	382.82	360.28	396.73	42.3	40.3	40.9	9.05	8.94	9.70
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	729.45	707.25	668.05	46.7	46.9	43.1	15.62	15.08	15.50

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 28,300 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the New Orleans LMA in March moved down to 509,800, a level 1,300 below February. Every industry division except government and services showed a decrease. Over the year, nonagricultural employment lost 17,200 workers, with every industry division except services exhibiting a reduction in employment. Nonagricultural employment now stands at the lowest level since February of 1979.

Manufacturing employment totaled 42,600 in March, down 100 from the previous month. In durable goods, transportation equipment showed a decrease of 100 in ship and boatbuilding and repair due to a layoff of workers at a local shipyard. However, all the segments in nondurable goods were unchanged over the month. Compared to one year ago manufacturing employment is down 1,000.

Retail trade displayed a sizable decrease spread through every segment. Wholesale trade moved down in the durable goods sector. Water transportation effected layoffs from an already reduced level of employment. Construction was lowered to a level below any recorded since the early 1970's. Finance reflected a small decrease in employment by banking. More favorably, services exhibited a sizable overall increase. Private health services sustained substantial long-range growth, providing the area economy one of its few bright spots. The hotel-motel industry added workers. Business services pushed up, although remaining at a level lower than that of March of last year. Government edged up as local government showed a small gain mostly seasonal in nature. Mining held steady.

Production workers in the area earned an average $437.54 a week in March, up $4.44 from last month's average. Average weekly hours decreased 18 minutes from the previous month and average hourly earnings decreased three cents. Compared to one year ago, weekly earnings are up by $9.67 in manufacturing.

Estimated unemployment in March moved down to 63,600, a level 4,400 below February. A decrease in the size of the labor force was mainly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 10.8 percent of the labor force compared to 11.4 percent in February and 10.1 percent in March of last year. The March rate was somewhat lower than the state rate of 13.5 percent, but much higher than the comparable national rate of 6.9 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits totaled 16,069.

Nonagricultural employment in the coming months is expected to exhibit normal seasonal changes. Services will reflect the end of the racing season. Private and public educational services will begin preparations for the summer season. More favorably, mining and construction will probably add at least a small number of workers as weather conditions improve. Unemployment will likely move up with the early summer increase in the number of entrants and re-entrants into the labor force.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1987*	February 1987**	March 1986**	Net Change From February 1987	Net Change From March 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	130.7	130.6	135.8	+ 0.1	- 5.1
MANUFACTURING	18.6	18.5	19.0	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Durable Goods	13.3	13.3	13.6	0	- 0.3
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Metals and Machinery	7.8	7.8	8.3	0	- 0.5
Primary and Fabricated Metals	1.6	1.6	1.7	0	- 0.1
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	6.2	6.2	6.6	0	- 0.4
Other Durable Goods	5.0	5.0	4.8	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Good	5.3	5.2	5.4	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.8	0.8	1.0	0	- 0.2
Printing & Publishing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0	0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.8	0.9	+ 0.1	0
Other Nondurable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
MINING	3.3	3.3	4.3	0	- 1.0
CONSTRUCTION	7.3	7.0	7.9	+ 0.3	- 0.6
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	8.3	8.3	8.4	0	- 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	29.7	29.9	32.4	- 0.2	- 2.7
Wholesale Trade	7.7	7.7	8.5	0	- 0.8
Retail Trade	22.0	22.2	23.9	- 0.2	- 1.9
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	7.7	7.9	8.0	- 0.2	- 0.3
SERVICES	30.4	30.3	30.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	25.4	25.4	25.5	0	- 0.1
Federal	4.6	4.5	4.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
State and Local	20.8	20.9	21.1	- 0.1	- 0.3
State	6.3	6.3	6.5	0	- 0.2
Local	14.5	14.6	14.6	- 0.1	- 0.1

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '87*	February '87**	March '86**	March '87*	February '87**	March '86**	March '87*	February '87**	March '86**
All MANUFACTURING	$456.23	$466.34	$468.54	39.5	40.8	41.1	$11.55	$11.43	$11.40
Lumber and Wood Products	240.38	210.60	257.45	37.5	32.6	40.8	6.41	6.46	6.31
Metals and Machinery	492.00	539.02	434.11	41.0	44.4	40.8	12.00	12.14	10.64
Food and Kindred Products	345.68	351.96	310.02	41.9	42.1	40.9	8.25	8.36	7.58
Printing and Publishing	345.43	314.50	290.78	34.1	31.2	31.2	10.13	10.08	9.32
Petroleum and Coal Products	658.93	542.14	625.00	50.3	46.1	48.6	13.10	11.76	12.86

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 14,000 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The nonagricultural wage and salary employment total for the Shreveport area, estimated at 130,700, is nearly unchanged from the revised February estimate of 130,600. The current estimate is 5,100 less than the March, 1986 total.

An employment estimate of 18,600 in total manufacturing is 100 more than the revised February figure, but 400 less than March, 1986. The reduced demand for durable goods has caused the loss of 300 jobs during the past year. Nondurable goods employment, during the same period, shows a slight decline from 5,400 to 5,300.

Nonmanufacturing employment, while unchanged from the revised February estimate of 112,100, is 4,700 less than the year-ago figure. During the past month construction employment increased 300, up from 7,000 in February, but remains below the year-ago estimate of 7,900. Services employment shows a slight gain from 30,300 in February to 30,400 in March. The employment gains in the construction and services segments were eliminated by job losses in trade and in finance, insurance and real estate.

The Shreveport labor area has 14,000 production workers in manufacturing with average weekly earnings of $456.23, down from $466.34 in February and $468.50 in March, 1986. Average weekly hours dropped to 39.5, down from 40.8 last month, and 41.1 one year ago. Average hourly earnings increased to $11.55, an increase from $11.43 last month, and $11.40 for March, 1986.

The current civilian labor force for the Shreveport labor area is estimated at 164,700, comprised of 143,400 employed and 21,300 unemployed. The unemployment rate is 12.9 percent, compared to 13.5 percent for the state and a national rate of 6.9 percent.

Only slight changes are expected during the next month in this labor area. Nonagricultural wage and salary employment will remain near the current level, while total unemployment is expected to show a slight decline.

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